



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Joseph Donovan, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

**Burmaster praises governor's pledge
to Wisconsin's students and their families**

*Statement by State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster on Gov. Doyle's
new financial aid proposal in his State of the State address*

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster issued the following statement on Gov. Jim Doyle's Wisconsin Covenant, making college more affordable for middle-class and working families as outlined in tonight's State of the State address. In this proposal, eighth-grade students will pledge to maintain at least a "B" average in high school, take college prep courses, and stay out of trouble. Following successful completion of their pledge and admittance to a Wisconsin public university, children of middle-class and working families will be assured that their financial needs for tuition will be met.

"Our New Wisconsin Promise is our commitment to raise achievement for all students and close the achievement gap. Building on our promise, Gov. Jim Doyle's proposed new financial aid package absolutely provides hope and vision to all eighth-grade students, before they start high school, that academic success brings college within reach. This proposal encourages our students to engage in their own learning and focus on their postsecondary schooling.

"The governor's proposal allows children in middle school to imagine that their dreams can be fulfilled. It also encourages high-schoolers to do well and make the right choices, while reassuring their families that college will be affordable."

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